

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 IGA-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 L-02 CIEP-01

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P 061425Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7237

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 0825

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE; DAR ES SALAAM FOR FRANK JACK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, MA, US

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I FOR MADAGASCAR

REF: TANANARIVE 0783

1. EMBASSY MAY 5 RECEIVED FOLLOWING NOTE FROM MALAGASY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR PL 480 TITLE I
AGREEMENT (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING AND CLOSING OMITTED): QTE THE
MINISTRY WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT AFTER DETAILED
STUDY OF THIS QUESTION, THE COMPETENT MALAGASY AUTHORITIES
WOULD BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED OFFER OF
CREDIT WITH THE RESERVATION THAT SOME MEASURES OF FLEXIBILITY
("ASSOUPLEMENT") BE APPLIED TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A)
MODE OF PAYMENT; (B) RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF DE LUXE
MALAGASY RICE; (C) REQUIREMENTS OF INFORMATION CONCERNING AGRI-
CULTURAL POLICY AND THE EVOLUTION OF PRODUCTION; (D) PUBLICITY
TO ACCOMPANY THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT AS WELL AS THE
ARRIVAL OF THE RICE IN MADAGASCAR. THE MINISTRY WOULD
APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY COMMUNICATING TO IT THE POSITION OF
THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WITH RESPECT TO THESE MALAGASY
PROPOSALS. UNQTE.

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2. ON RECEIPT OF NOTE, EMBOFF CALLED SECGEN OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CLARIFICATION OF POINTS (A) AND (C). SECGEN SAID POINT (A) ON "MODE OF PAYMENT" REFERS TO ARTICLE II, SECTION B OF DRAFT AGREEMENT (ARTICLE ON CURRENCY USE PAYMENT). MALAGASY WISH CURRENCY USE PAYMENT TO BE CREDITED AGAINST PRINCIPAL OF LOAN RATHSN THAN AGAINST INTEREST DUE SO AS TO SAVE ON TOTAL AMOUNT OF INTEREST THAT MUST BE PAID OVER LIFE OF LOAN.

3. POINT (C), ACCORDING TO SECGEN, REFERS NOT TO ANY SPECIFIC SECTION OF DRAFT AGREEMENT BUT TO ANNEXES GIVEN TO MALAGASY NEGOTIATORS AT LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION REQUIRING GOMR TO FURNISH VOLUMINOUS INFORMATION ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, PLANS, AND PRODUCTION. SECGEN SAID MALAGASY WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SUPPLYING REQUESTED DATA ON RICE PRODUCTION BUT CONSIDER DETAILED QUESTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY GO BEYOND NEEDS OF AN AGREEMENT ON SUPPLY OF COMMODITIES.

4. EMBOFF OBSERVED THAT POINT (D) OF MALAGASY DIPLOMATIC NOTE, REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN AGREEMENT AND ARRIVAL OF RICE, IS LEGAL REQUIREMENT CONTAINED IN SUBSECTION 103(1) OF PL 480, AND OTHER POINTS ARE MAINLY STANDARD PROVISIONS USED IN PL 480 AGREEMENTS THROUGHOUT WORLD. EMBOFF HAS APPOINTMENT MAY 7 WITH MOFA OFFICIAL TO SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON MALAGASY CONCERNS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR REPLY TO FOUR POINTS RAISED IN MALAGASY DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON PROPOSED PL 480 AGREEMENT. WOULD RECOMMEND WE AT LEAST TRY TO MEET MALAGASY OBJECTION TO RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OF LUXURY RICE AS IT ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT TYPE OF PRODUCT FROM RICE U.S. WILL SUPPLY.
MENDENHALL

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